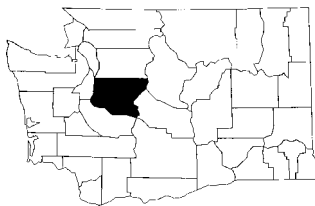


Health Care User's Guide

Hospital Charges By
Illness Category
January 1997 to December 1997

King County Hospitals



North Puget Sound Region



For Clallam, Island, Jefferson,
Kitsap, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit,
Snohomish, and Whatcom
Counties

Southwest Washington Region



For Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor,
Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Pacific,
Skamania, Thurston, and
Wahkiakum Counties

Central Washington Region



For Benton, Chelan, Douglas,
Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan,
and Yakima Counties

Eastern Washington Region



For Adams, Asotin, Columbia,
Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille,
Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, and
Whitman Counties

King County Hospitals

1997 Average Hospital Charges

King County Residents Treated In King County Hospitals:

Hospital Name	Stroke DRG 014	Pneu- monia DRG 089	Heart Failure & Shock DRG 127	Chest Pain DRG 140	Diges- tive Disorders DRG 182	Joint Replace- ment & Reattach- ment DRG 209	Medical Back Prob- lems DRG 243	Cesarean Section DRG 371	Normal Child- birth DRG 373	Normal New- born DRG 391	Chemo- Therapy DRG 410	Psy- choses DRG 430
Auburn Regional Medical Center	6,525	6,702	5,207	3,598	5,066	14,171	3,526	4,415	2,770	729	5,936	14,290
CPC Fairfax Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,900
Childrens Hospital & Med Center	5,477	5,702	5,730	—	3,901	18,031	5,853	—	—	1,335	6,376	13,982
Community Memorial Hospital	4,670	5,868	4,592	3,107	3,724	15,315	2,524	5,033	2,641	760	—	—
Evergreen Hospital Medical Center	6,151	5,943	5,928	2,798	3,747	13,090	3,233	4,070	2,507	541	6,230	8,837
Harborview Medical Center	9,374	5,762	6,498	4,757	5,252	18,936	6,016	—	—	—	5,006	8,634
Highline Community Hospital	5,443	6,511	5,132	2,716	4,899	15,423	3,437	4,780	2,285	592	4,004	12,531
Northwest Hospital	5,305	5,345	4,386	2,512	3,537	13,735	3,506	4,295	2,359	577	6,083	8,247
Overlake Hospital Medical Center	6,108	5,274	6,014	4,385	4,153	13,882	3,500	4,195	2,686	744	4,617	3,822
Providence Seattle Medical Center	6,007	5,441	5,722	3,566	4,436	12,203	4,765	4,732	2,681	729	3,728	6,445
Saint Francis Community Hospital	7,255	6,291	5,103	3,214	5,005	15,674	4,404	5,639	2,576	786	10,749	3,037
Snoqualmie Valley Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	416	—	—
Swedish Medical Center	7,809	6,742	6,949	4,502	4,519	14,787	5,053	5,318	2,966	804	6,989	6,275
THC-Seattle Hospital	9,123	8,818	10,413	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,838
University of WA Medical Center	8,769	5,744	5,685	3,841	4,191	16,750	4,829	5,762	2,864	797	8,362	7,365
Valley Medical Center	6,192	5,827	5,105	2,641	3,950	12,353	5,057	4,091	2,279	491	6,314	4,102
Virginia Mason Hospital	5,856	5,709	5,365	3,074	4,533	14,511	3,917	—	—	—	6,919	2,917
Region Averages	6,461	5,914	5,607	3,392	4,368	14,039	4,385	4,664	2,611	681	6,771	7,193

King County Residents Treated In Other Regions:

North Puget Sound Region	6,532	5,550	5,142	2,806	4,475	15,837	4,914	5,176	2,611	735	7,877	6,594
Southwest Washington Region	5,053	6,502	4,676	3,143	2,251	12,251	1,801	5,878	3,181	855	—	7,188
Central Washington Region	7,702	10,108	3,323	2,320	3,122	10,527	5,917	5,845	2,811	834	—	8,928
Eastern Washington Region	7,038	7,223	—	1,500	—	17,670	4,604	3,552	—	1,485	—	11,256

Averages for King County Residents	6,467	5,916	5,589	3,375	4,368	14,095	4,395	4,685	2,612	683	6,797	7,175
Statewide Averages	6,404	6,009	5,490	3,208	4,387	15,208	4,249	5,116	2,646	720	7,340	7,176

NOTE: Values in *Italic* are based on less than 25 discharges.

*Group Health Hospitals do not report charges to the Department of Health

North Puget Sound Washington Hospitals

1997 Average Hospital Charges

North Puget Sound Residents Treated In North Puget Sound Hospitals:

Hospital Name	Stroke DRG 014	Pneu- monia DRG 089	Heart Failure & Shock DRG 127	Chest Pain DRG 140	Diges- tive Disorders DRG 182	Joint Replace- ment & Reattach- ment DRG 209	Medical Back Problems DRG 243	Cesarean Section DRG 371	Normal Child- birth DRG 373	Normal New- born DRG 391	Chemo- Therapy DRG 410	Psy- choses DRG 430
Affiliated Health Services	6,471	6,435	6,630	<i>4,561</i>	4,555	15,972	<i>4,659</i>	5,121	2,973	803	6,704	6,502
Allenmore Community Hospital	5,182	5,323	5,338	<i>2,859</i>	4,482	19,747	<i>4,598</i>	—	—	—	<i>4,485</i>	<i>1,994</i>
Cascade Valley Hospital	4,574	4,742	4,510	<i>2,880</i>	3,946	15,415	<i>4,438</i>	4,678	2,376	615	—	—
Forks Community Hospital	<i>6,409</i>	<i>6,784</i>	<i>3,733</i>	<i>2,202</i>	<i>3,655</i>	—	<i>3,572</i>	<i>7,917</i>	<i>2,628</i>	<i>505</i>	—	<i>1,330</i>
Good Samaritan Hospital	6,414	4,729	4,632	3,028	4,690	15,220	4,051	5,383	3,034	785	6,352	<i>4,303</i>
Harrison Memorial Hospital	5,232	5,325	5,006	3,171	4,033	12,995	3,799	4,465	2,238	535	4,344	5,018
Island Hospital	6,344	5,954	5,074	3,640	4,611	16,652	<i>4,055</i>	<i>6,770</i>	2,464	813	<i>5,188</i>	—
Jefferson General Hospital	5,735	6,724	4,497	3,249	4,037	15,454	<i>3,749</i>	<i>7,161</i>	3,362	610	—	<i>2,063</i>
Mary Bridge Childrens Health Center	<i>10,364</i>	—	<i>8,848</i>	—	—	—	<i>4,079</i>	—	—	<i>901</i>	<i>8,612</i>	—
Olympic Memorial Hospital	4,550	5,314	4,727	2,583	3,605	12,514	3,450	4,507	2,177	778	4,974	—
Providence General Medical Center	6,410	5,656	4,971	2,964	4,334	15,461	4,063	5,511	3,302	740	7,394	<i>2,730</i>
Puget Sound Hospital	<i>8,071</i>	7,589	7,404	<i>4,877</i>	4,841	15,194	<i>2,380</i>	—	—	—	—	6,650
Saint Clare Hospital	7,378	5,937	5,983	<i>4,069</i>	4,720	18,753	<i>4,817</i>	5,896	2,682	812	—	<i>4,450</i>
Saint Joseph Hospital	6,045	6,306	5,621	3,322	4,565	15,862	4,541	7,396	2,811	848	<i>3,596</i>	8,746
Saint Joseph Medical Center	7,208	5,960	5,975	<i>3,959</i>	4,964	17,717	4,883	6,299	2,543	864	9,026	3,484
Stevens Healthcare	6,933	5,576	5,135	3,073	4,268	12,269	<i>3,585</i>	4,483	2,427	524	<i>6,553</i>	6,409
Tacoma General Hospital	6,944	6,434	5,739	<i>3,565</i>	5,184	19,132	4,815	3,926	2,301	609	8,597	<i>2,810</i>
Valley General Hospital	<i>4,369</i>	4,811	4,004	<i>2,439</i>	<i>3,791</i>	14,059	<i>3,498</i>	5,301	2,398	912	—	<i>4,526</i>
Whidbey General Hospital	6,396	5,763	4,824	3,185	3,467	18,079	<i>3,829</i>	5,442	2,110	702	<i>7,985</i>	<i>2,357</i>
Region Averages	6,283	5,712	5,300	3,126	4,391	16,036	4,203	5,244	2,678	726	7,062	5,766

North Puget Sound Residents Treated In Other Regions:

King County Region	7,106	6,042	6,009	3,270	4,429	14,776	4,450	4,780	2,631	664	7,724	8,563
Southwest Washington Region	<i>6,279</i>	<i>6,041</i>	<i>5,932</i>	<i>3,748</i>	<i>4,722</i>	<i>13,741</i>	<i>5,577</i>	<i>5,283</i>	3,217	634	—	<i>6,445</i>
Central Washington Region	<i>6,533</i>	<i>3,507</i>	<i>3,902</i>	<i>2,415</i>	<i>4,492</i>	<i>16,237</i>	—	<i>4,278</i>	<i>2,216</i>	<i>709</i>	—	8,298
Eastern Washington Region	<i>10,516</i>	<i>3,787</i>	<i>6,085</i>	—	<i>4,665</i>	—	<i>7,423</i>	—	<i>3,166</i>	<i>841</i>	—	<i>11,690</i>
Averages for N Puget Sound Residents	6,369	5,733	5,360	3,144	4,399	15,780	4,274	5,160	2,672	716	7,410	6,480
State Averages	6,404	6,009	5,490	3,208	4,387	15,208	4,249	5,116	2,646	720	7,340	7,176

NOTE: Values in *Italic* are based on less than 25 discharges.

Southwest Washington Hospitals

1997 Average Hospital Charges

Southwest Washington Residents Treated In Southwest Washington Hospitals:

Hospital Name	Stroke DRG 014	Pneu- monia DRG 089	Heart Failure & Shock DRG 127	Chest Pain DRG 140	Diges- tive Disorders DRG 182	Joint Replace- ment & Reattach- ment DRG 209	Medical Back Prob- lems DRG 243	Cesarean Section DRG 371	Normal Child- birth DRG 373	Normal New- born DRG 391	Chemo- Therapy DRG 410	Psy- choses DRG 430
Columbia Capital Medical Center	6,120	6,499	6,913	<i>3,179</i>	5,437	16,612	<i>4,749</i>	6,431	3,179	674	<i>11,675</i>	<i>18,236</i>
Grays Harbor Community Hospital	8,514	8,164	7,204	4,128	5,239	22,141	<i>4,789</i>	7,669	3,200	880	<i>5,917</i>	<i>6,277</i>
Klickitat Valley Hospital	<i>4,982</i>	5,608	4,665	<i>3,469</i>	<i>3,045</i>	—	<i>1,922</i>	<i>8,285</i>	2,773	652	—	<i>2,160</i>
Mark Reed Memorial Hospital	—	<i>4,862</i>	<i>4,398</i>	—	<i>4,999</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mason General Hospital	5,582	4,734	4,172	2,792	4,142	13,732	<i>3,546</i>	5,349	2,424	583	—	<i>3,262</i>
Morton General Hospital	<i>3,537</i>	<i>4,254</i>	<i>3,136</i>	<i>1,950</i>	<i>4,248</i>	—	<i>3,197</i>	<i>7,360</i>	<i>2,778</i>	952	—	<i>1,541</i>
Ocean Beach Hospital	<i>5,778</i>	5,151	4,434	2,524	<i>2,966</i>	—	<i>3,586</i>	—	—	—	—	—
Providence Centralia Hospital	5,628	6,271	5,809	<i>3,201</i>	4,418	15,194	<i>4,210</i>	5,521	2,554	756	—	<i>3,265</i>
Providence Saint Peter Hospital	5,682	5,779	5,303	2,586	4,325	13,463	4,385	5,579	3,229	654	7,123	8,057
Saint Johns Medical Center	6,119	6,065	5,511	3,180	4,576	12,780	<i>3,696</i>	5,092	3,056	687	<i>8,594</i>	<i>7,038</i>
Skyline Hospital	<i>4,607</i>	6,267	5,201	<i>4,132</i>	<i>4,945</i>	—	<i>4,553</i>	<i>7,245</i>	3,118	695	—	<i>5,643</i>
Southwest Washington Medical Center	5,848	5,262	4,822	2,885	4,001	16,540	3,737	5,222	2,686	743	4,677	5,645
Willapa Harbor Hospital	<i>7,003</i>	6,476	4,064	<i>2,596</i>	4,614	—	<i>4,243</i>	<i>6,890</i>	2,520	880	—	—
Region Averages	6,066	5,886	5,499	3,031	4,340	15,157	4,052	5,583	2,891	721	6,942	6,901

Southwest Washington Residents Treated In Other Regions:

North Puget Sound Region:	5,674	4,919	5,401	<i>2,736</i>	<i>3,737</i>	16,845	<i>3,949</i>	5,102	2,533	633	<i>8,623</i>	<i>5,475</i>
King County Region	<i>8,084</i>	<i>8,992</i>	<i>6,913</i>	<i>3,670</i>	<i>3,862</i>	14,863	<i>4,695</i>	<i>5,259</i>	<i>2,896</i>	925	8,086	10,226
Central Washington Region	<i>9,198</i>	<i>3,122</i>	<i>5,874</i>	<i>2,120</i>	<i>1,898</i>	<i>14,731</i>	—	<i>4,847</i>	<i>2,489</i>	<i>826</i>	<i>7,612</i>	<i>8,677</i>
Eastern Washington Region	<i>8,889</i>	—	<i>5,306</i>	<i>2,972</i>	—	—	<i>2,425</i>	—	—	<i>1,217</i>	—	<i>1,282</i>
Averages for SW WA Residents	6,084	5,896	5,517	3,031	4,307	15,183	4,087	5,559	2,883	720	7,622	7,077
State Averages	6,404	6,009	5,490	3,208	4,387	15,208	4,249	5,116	2,646	720	7,340	7,176

NOTE: Values in *Italic* are based on less than 25 discharges.

Central Washington Hospitals

1997 Average Hospital Charges

Central Washington Residents Treated In Central Washington Hospitals:

Hospital Name	Stroke DRG 014	Pneu- monia DRG 089	Heart Failure & Shock DRG 127	Chest Pain DRG 140	Diges- tive Disorders DRG 182	Joint Replace- ment & Reattach- ment DRG 209	Medical Back Prob- lems DRG 243	Cesarean Section DRG 371	Normal Child- birth DRG 373	Normal New- born DRG 391	Chemo- Therapy DRG 410	Psy- choses DRG 430
Carondelet Behavioral Health Center	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,503
Cascade Medical Center	3,631	4,231	2,426	3,314	2,369	—	2,112	—	—	—	—	4,015
Central Washington Hospital	5,988	4,701	5,106	3,042	3,809	11,775	3,999	4,491	2,736	797	6,682	6,760
Columbia Basin Hospital	3,755	3,321	2,754	2,020	2,585	—	—	—	1,674	552	—	—
Coulee Community Hospital	3,842	5,930	3,788	—	1,876	—	—	7,524	1,576	503	—	—
Kadlec Medical Center	7,841	7,762	6,299	3,116	4,287	15,707	3,853	4,781	2,742	824	12,023	3,964
Kennewick General Hospital	6,349	7,199	6,201	3,545	5,389	15,990	4,646	5,749	2,862	778	11,161	—
Kittitas Valley Hospital	5,369	5,426	4,923	2,918	4,363	17,485	3,676	5,184	2,397	711	—	7,732
Lake Chelan Community Hospital	4,915	5,653	5,622	3,878	4,553	—	4,476	7,436	3,224	757	—	6,711
Mid-Valley Hospital	3,489	6,208	5,895	2,793	4,369	18,645	3,451	5,429	2,160	780	—	4,908
North Valley Hospital	5,040	5,047	3,357	2,436	5,398	—	2,086	5,772	2,196	518	—	—
Okanogan-Douglas Hospital	4,679	5,819	4,946	2,941	2,644	18,379	3,335	4,892	2,063	644	—	3,175
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital	7,343	6,847	5,796	3,169	4,880	17,455	4,964	6,677	2,275	701	—	2,889
Prosser Memorial Hospital	6,322	5,022	4,477	4,396	3,528	—	—	5,168	1,950	717	—	—
Providence Toppenish Hospital	6,847	6,367	5,662	4,083	4,656	15,555	4,315	4,370	1,871	742	—	—
Providence Yakima Medical Center	5,498	7,369	5,140	3,414	4,435	14,044	4,038	5,584	2,598	707	7,212	3,281
Quincy Valley Hospital	4,461	4,296	3,309	—	3,561	—	1,765	6,064	2,857	806	—	—
Samaritan Hospital	6,674	5,170	4,343	2,864	4,276	16,292	—	5,386	2,235	833	—	—
Sunnyside Community Hospital	5,290	6,753	5,209	3,065	3,567	16,193	3,443	4,790	2,104	761	—	—
Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital	5,920	6,040	5,003	3,340	4,024	14,358	3,552	4,993	2,672	812	8,352	7,690
Region Averages	6,068	6,270	5,250	3,125	4,165	14,593	3,883	5,156	2,516	777	9,153	8,427

Central Washington Residents Treated In Other Regions:

North Puget Sound Region	7,382	6,038	8,300	3,122	5,214	16,446	4,269	4,654	2,184	784	—	5,503
King County Region	9,231	4,983	6,968	3,952	4,867	14,962	6,066	5,680	2,761	671	8,594	8,228
Southwest Washington Region	—	3,311	3,297	3,114	2,527	14,555	—	—	3,136	561	11,201	2,878
Eastern Washington Region	9,177	5,993	6,180	3,615	4,018	16,609	5,474	5,270	2,213	732	7,466	9,753

Averages for Central WA Residents	6,193	6,250	5,299	3,139	4,180	14,677	4,102	5,167	2,510	776	8,765	8,508
State Averages	6,404	6,009	5,490	3,208	4,387	15,208	4,249	5,116	2,646	720	7,340	7,176

NOTE: Values in *Italic* are based on less than 25 discharges.

Eastern Washington Hospitals

1997 Average Hospital Charges

Eastern Washington Residents Treated In Eastern Washington Hospitals:

Hospital Name	Stroke DRG 014	Pneu- monia DRG 089	Heart Failure & Shock DRG 127	Chest Pain DRG 140	Diges- tive Disorders DRG 182	Replace- ment & Reattach- ment DRG 209	Joint Medical Back Prob- lems DRG 243	Cesarean Section DRG 371	Normal Child- birth DRG 373	Normal New- born DRG 391	Chemo- Therapy DRG 410	Psy- choses DRG 430
Dayton General Hospital	6,119	6,670	5,477	3,548	1,867	—	3,198	—	—	—	—	—
Deaconess Medical Center	6,807	7,138	7,617	4,344	5,179	17,037	4,050	5,182	2,538	752	9,047	—
Deer Park Health Center & Hospital	4,794	4,516	4,430	2,531	2,605	—	3,077	—	2,006	623	—	—
East Adams Rural Hospital	5,151	5,974	5,223	2,860	3,945	—	2,710	—	—	—	—	—
Ferry County Memorial Hospital	4,638	4,495	3,074	2,111	2,356	—	2,558	—	1,710	474	—	2,410
Garfield County Memorial Hospital	2,649	3,291	2,414	—	—	—	4,663	—	—	—	—	—
Holy Family Hospital	6,857	6,480	5,508	2,961	4,192	17,500	4,091	5,569	2,406	658	7,310	2,802
Lincoln Hospital	5,167	6,780	3,730	2,709	3,046	—	2,536	7,785	2,396	884	—	—
Mount Carmel Hospital	6,615	6,081	5,696	3,879	4,015	19,304	3,487	6,672	2,091	693	—	5,928
Newport Community Hospital	3,584	4,735	3,618	2,849	1,712	—	2,860	5,437	2,438	692	—	—
Odessa Memorial Hospital	—	4,852	2,927	1,611	—	—	2,332	—	—	—	—	—
Othello Community Hospital	4,261	5,204	3,114	2,405	—	—	2,996	5,688	2,090	722	—	—
Pullman Memorial Hospital	5,284	6,670	4,364	—	3,843	19,680	4,274	5,986	2,180	531	—	—
Sacared Heart Medical Center	7,913	7,248	6,320	3,773	5,912	15,880	5,108	5,388	2,743	786	7,122	9,181
Saint Josephs Hospital of Chewelah	5,624	6,380	4,864	2,963	3,643	—	3,332	7,755	2,698	873	—	2,422
Saint Lukes Rehabilitation Institute	19,969	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saint Mary Medical Center	5,955	6,784	5,680	3,649	5,170	17,628	5,125	6,453	2,431	828	7,453	4,921
Tri-State Memorial Hospital	9,096	6,652	6,262	3,475	3,648	16,364	4,402	—	—	—	9,312	—
Valley Hospital & Medical Center	6,959	7,933	6,417	3,732	4,748	17,185	4,415	6,332	2,827	732	4,053	—
Walla Walla General Hospital	7,077	8,113	6,684	6,394	3,677	16,373	4,144	5,501	2,558	909	—	4,865
Whitman Community Hospital	4,535	5,169	3,710	1,821	3,208	13,789	3,021	5,239	2,125	721	—	1,964
Region Averages	6,989	6,671	5,811	3,446	4,694	16,725	4,110	5,588	2,537	741	7,602	8,591

Eastern Washington Residents Treated In Other Regions:

North Puget Sound Region	4,459	4,156	2,127	1,348	—	12,294	—	6,302	3,440	478	—	6,008
King County Region	6,085	3,981	5,273	3,303	8,879	15,291	7,867	5,986	3,398	419	7,297	9,336
Southwest Washington Region	9,358	—	2,830	3,341	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,344
Central Washington Region	6,735	6,050	5,402	2,850	2,756	17,692	4,140	5,250	2,355	755	6,577	7,972

Averages for Eastern WA Residents	6,978	6,653	5,798	3,433	4,707	16,718	4,123	5,584	2,535	741	7,558	8,555
State Averages	6,404	6,009	5,490	3,208	4,387	15,208	4,249	5,116	2,646	720	7,340	7,176

NOTE: Values in *Italic* are based on less than 25 discharges.

Illness Category Definitions

DRG 14: Stroke Stroke and related conditions, such as bleeding in the brain and sudden blockage of blood vessels in the brain.

DRG 89: Pneumonia Age 18 or older with complications. Bacterial, viral, and bronchial pneumonia and pleurisy.

DRG 127: Heart Failure & Shock Conditions related to weakening heart muscles as a result of high blood pressure, rheumatic heart disease, and congestive heart failure.

DRG 140: Chest Pain Severe pain related to a heart condition.

DRG 182: Digestive Disorders Age 18 or older with complications. Conditions related to the esophagus, stomach, and intestines, such as salmonella, food poisoning, infectious diarrhea, intestinal parasites, persistent vomiting, heartburn, gas and abdominal pain.

DRG 209: Joint Replacement & Limb Reattachment Major lower joint replacements such as knees, hips, ankles; and major lower limb reattachments, such as foot and lower leg.

DRG 243: Medical Back Problems Non-surgical treatments for back pain resulting from disease, injury or malformation, such as disc displacement, lumbago, sciatica, scoliosis, fractures, dislocations, and sprains.

DRG 371: Cesarean Section Normal delivery of a baby or babies through incisions made in the mother's abdomen.

DRG 373: Normal Childbirth Normal delivery of a baby or babies without surgery.

DRG 391: Normal Newborn Newly delivered babies without significant health problems.

DRG 410: Chemotherapy Maintenance and follow-up drug treatments for cancer.

DRG 430: Psychoses Major personality disorders such as schizophrenia, catatonia, manic disorders, bipolar affective disorders, and paranoia.

Note:

The information in this brochure comes from data provided to the state Department of Health by Washington hospitals. The data are grouped into illness categories, called Diagnosis Related Groups, or DRGs. They combine similar diagnoses and treatments.

The charges listed are **averages** for items and services provided by hospitals, based on the number of patients and total charges for that illness as reported in the region in 1997. **Doctor fees are not included.** Figures include charges for the hospital room, hospital services ordered by a doctor (such as x-rays and laboratory tests), and personal care items (such as hospital gowns). Very high or low charges and very long or short stays are not included in the averages.

Because these figures are averages, they may be different from what you are billed.

Making Informed Choices

This brochure can help you make informed health care choices. It is designed to show how health care charges for similar illnesses can vary by hospital. By using this information to let your health care providers know you plan to take an active role, you can make them more aware of the need for affordable, readily available care.

The information in this brochure comes from data provided to the Department of Health by Washington hospitals. This data is grouped into illness categories which combine similar diagnoses and treatments. There is a brief description of each category on the inside.

The charges in this brochure are **averages** based on the number of patients and total charges for that illness as reported in that region in 1997. How long you are in the hospital, the level of care you receive, complications, special laboratory services, and fee increases all affect the charges for hospital services. Because these figures are averages, they may be different from what you are billed.

Use this information to talk with your doctor about how to get the best care while keeping costs down.

For additional brochures:

1-360-236-4200

or visit: www.doh.wa.gov/data/data.htm

Complaints about quality of care:

Hospitals: 1-800-633-6828

Professional Licensing: 1-360-236-4700

Health Consumer Assistance:

1-800-525-0127

Washington State

Department of Health

Office of Hospital & Patient Data Systems

P.O. Box 47811

Olympia, WA 98504-7811

Health Care Tips

Take Responsibility for Your Health

Play an active role in the health care of yourself and your family. Be prepared for doctor visits. Don't wait for a medical emergency to compare hospital or physician fees and services.

Plan. Choose an insurance plan that best meets your needs. Select doctors and hospitals you trust, that work with your insurance provider and are reasonably priced.

Know your rights and responsibilities as a patient. Know your personal and family medical history.

Learn about your illness or condition. Gather information about the latest treatments and alternatives to surgery.

Act. Don't wait. Look into alternatives. Speak up. Tell your doctor about your symptoms and what you think may be causing them.

Ask Questions

You have the right to be involved in your care and treatment. Have questions ready ahead of time to ask your doctor, insurance representative, and the hospital:

- What do my symptoms mean?
- What tests do I need and why do I need them?
- What risks are involved if I have surgery?
- How long does the surgery take and how long do I need to stay in the hospital?
- How much of the cost will my insurance cover?
- What items and services are included in the hospital charges?
- How soon can I return to my normal activities?

Avoid Unnecessary Treatment

Your doctor's decisions about your care can account for as much as three-quarters of your medical bills. You can save time and money by seeking the best treatment for your needs. You can be more confident of your treatment and reduce unforeseen costs if you choose a good insurance plan, use preferred providers, and get second opinions. Find out your options by asking questions such as:

- Is surgery or medication necessary? Why?
- Can my tests or surgery be done somewhere besides the hospital?
- What other treatments are available?
- Can I make any changes, such as diet and exercise, that might help my condition?

Prevent Injuries and Illness

The best way to avoid medical treatment is to practice preventive care and create safe home and work environments.

- Get regular check-ups and physical exams.
- Take free health tests when they are available.
- Schedule the health screening tests recommended for your age, sex, and risk group.
- Select an insurance plan with good preventive care coverage.
- Wear a seat belt.
- Never drink and drive.
- Eliminate unsafe conditions at home and at work.
- Keep guns locked up.
- Install smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
- Wear sunscreen.

Develop a Healthy Lifestyle

Another way to avoid illness is to develop lifelong habits that keep you healthy.

- Don't smoke.
- Limit the amount of alcohol you drink.
- Exercise regularly.
- Eat a balanced diet that is low in fat and high in fiber.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Stay mentally active and involved with self, family and community.
- Keep a sense of humor about life.

Examine Hospital and Medical Bills

Check all medical bills carefully for errors. Look to see if you have been overcharged, billed more than once, or charged for an item or service you did not receive. If you have trouble understanding your bill, ask your doctor or the hospital for an explanation. **Washington Department of Health does not regulate hospital rates or billing practices.**

Washington State Department of Health

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This brochure is published to increase consumer awareness of health care charges. For additional copies write to the Department of Health at the address above or call 360-236-4200.